How to Support Your Child’s Vocabulary
Disclaimer

The resources shown are designed to provide helpful information. Resources are provided for instructional use purposes only and do not constitute NYSED endorsement of any vendor, author, or other sources. To the best of our knowledge, the resources provided are true and complete.
Today’s Facilitators

Name
Introductions

NAME

CHILDREN

QUESTIONS
Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to explain the importance of vocabulary instruction for their child in the elementary grades.

Participants will be able to describe ways to incorporate explicit instruction and vocabulary instruction in the home.
Did you have a favorite book as a child? Why or why not?
Definition

Vocabulary

"Vocabulary refers to the meanings and pronunciation of words necessary for communication."
Defining Vocabulary

Receptive Vocabulary
words we recognize

Expressive Vocabulary
words we use
Why should we focus on vocabulary?

Vocabulary exposure gaps have been shown in children as young as three years old. These gaps can be MILLIONS of words wide!
Favorite Word Video
How the Home Matters

86% to 98% of the words in a child's vocabulary consist of words in their caregiver's vocabulary.

Vocabulary knowledge at 3-years-old predicts vocabulary knowledge in 3rd grade.

It is never too early, or too late, to start focusing on vocabulary!

Hart & Risley, 2003
What is Explicit Instruction?

Explicit instruction is *clear, structured, and engaging* teaching. It includes high levels of support and feedback from an adult.

For example, consider explicitly teaching “*brushing your teeth.*”

This is important at school *and* at home! The rest of this presentation will focus on opportunities to use explicit instruction at home to build vocabulary.
Explicit Instruction Example

Teaching Words

Definition: Provide a simple kid friendly definition. "Enormous means really, really big!"

Example: Provide an example your child will understand. "Remember that really big pumpkin we saw last weekend, it was enormous!"

Application: Encourage your child to come up with an example. "Can you come up with something you saw today that was enormous? That's right those trees in the park were very tall, they were enormous."

Continued Use: Continue to use the word in daily conversation. "Wow look at that enormous tree we just passed! How tall do you think it was?"
Vocabulary Video

HOW TO BUILD YOUR CHILD'S VOCABULARY?
What if my child can’t read yet?

Talk to your child as much as possible.

Read to your child. When you do, make it fun and interesting. If not possible, we’ll talk about other things you can do.

Be engaging and make conversation, read-alouds, even a trip to the store interactive! Label objects in the environment for your child.

Follow your child’s lead and help them understand their world.
The Importance of Reading to Your Child

Kids who read only one book a day will hear about **290,000 more words by age** 5 than those who aren’t read to.

Children who have a larger vocabulary are better prepared to see those words in print when beginning to read.

Each picture book contains an average of **228 words**.

Exposure to reading of any kind is helpful! Reading aloud or audio books can help.

Grabmeier, 2019
Books to Help Build Vocabulary

"My First" books

"The Boy Who Loved Words" by Roni Schotter

"The Word Collector" by Peter H Reynolds

"Thesaurus Rex" by Laya Steinberg

"The Incredible Ned" by Bill Maynard

"13 Words" by Lemony Snicket
Books to Build Vocabulary – Help with Read-Alouds

See Handout
Let’s Watch
Let’s Talk
Your Local Libraries

Library 1
  Address
  Phone Number
  Services

Library 2
  Address
  Phone Number
  Services
The “Summer Slide”

Children can lose up to 1-3 months of learning over the summer.

Reading 4-5 books over the summer prevents reading decline.

Children who were provided 10-20 books of their choice over the summer showed reading gains.

Kim & Quinn, 2013; Scholastic, 2020
Suggestions

- Engage in conversation with your child about what they are reading in school.
- Model an appreciation for reading and literature for your child.
- Set aside family reading time or read books together as a family.
- Allow your child access to as many books as possible via their school library or your local community library.
- Take advantage of story times or youth book clubs in your community.
- Stay in contact with your child's teachers and ask how you can support their lessons at home.
Timeline

Zero In
Zero in on your child’s interests and provide access to books on that topic

Start Small
Start small, encourage your child to read short articles, magazines, graphic novels; whatever interests him/her

Share
Share in the reading process with your child, make it a fun family activity
Children At-Risk

Has your child been identified as having a learning disability or otherwise shown to be at-risk?

The supports we talked about can help ALL students.

Students identified at-risk will benefit from more engaging in these strategies.

Talk to your child’s teacher to see if there are supports, or even brief interventions, that can be done at home and monitored by the school.
Summary

It is never too early to start helping your child develop vocabulary.

Talking to children helps them develop vocabulary.

Exposure to books will prime your child for later reading.

Combat the "Summer Slide" by encouraging your child to read regularly over the summer. Make reading a family activity!

Meet your child where he/she at with reading. Any reading is better than no reading!
Ticket Out the Door

What is one thing you learned today?

What is one strategy you will take home with you?